MARVEL
2
CANTWELL
PIZZARI
REDMOND
THANOS
SMASH OF THE TITANS!

THANOS

RETURN OF THE MAD TITAN PART TWO:

"YESTERDAY'S LOVERS NEVER MAKE GOOD FRIENDS"

THANOS HAS RETURNED TO EARTH...AND TAKEN HOSTAGE THE CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA!

CALLED THE MAD TITAN–AN ETERNAL OF IMMENSE STRENGTH, INTELLECT, AMBITION AND BLOODTHIRST–THANOS ONCE SOUGHT THE HEART OF THE GODDESS DEATH AND USED THE INFINITY GAUNTLET TO ERASE HALF THE UNIVERSE'S POPULATION TO WIN HER LOVE. BUT THE PAIR HAD SPLIT BY THE TIME THANOS DISAPPEARED INTO A BLACK HOLE AND WAS PRESUMED DEAD, UNTIL HE REAPPEARED AND PULLED FRESNO OUT OF THE EARTH AND INTO SPACE.

MEANWHILE, THE ILLUMINATI–A SECRET ORGANIZATION OF SUPER HEROES THAT CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF IRON MAN, DOCTOR STRANGE, MISTER FANTASTIC, BLUE MARVEL AND EMMA FROST–APPEARED TO PROTECT A CIVILIAN NAMED ROBERTA MARSHALL...WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE A DEAD YOUNG WOMAN NAMED MARIE.

CHRISTOPHER CANTWELL WRITER

LUCA PIZZARI ARTIST

RUTH REDMOND COLOR ARTIST

VC's CORY PETIT LETTERER

LEINIL FRANCIS YU & SUNNY GHO COVER ARTISTS

TAURIN CLARKE; GABRIELE DELL'OTTO VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

GABRIEL MATA PRODUCTION DESIGNER

MICHELLE MARCHESE ASSISTANT EDITOR

WIL MOSS EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

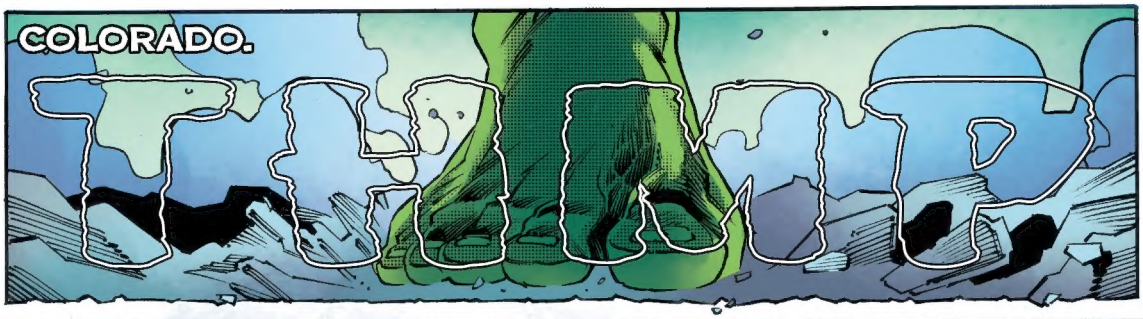
FRESNO.
(ALSO SPACE, WHERE FRESNO HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM THE EARTH.)
WHERE ARE YOU?!
SHOW YOURSELF TO ME!
YOU CANNOT HIDE WITHIN THE DEBRIS AND DETRITUS OF THIS MOST DECIMATED FRESNO!

REED, HAS THANOS EVER *RIPPED* A CITY OUT OF THE *GROUND* BEFORE?
NOT SURE, BUT I *WILL* SAY, ADAM, THAT FRESNO SEEMS TO BE ENCASED IN SOME KIND OF *PROTECTIVE ATMOSPHERIC SHIELDING* AS WE MOVE HIGHER INTO ORBIT.
DO WE REALLY NEED *THESE EARPIECES?* I CAN FACILITATE OUR COMMUNICATION *TELEPATHICALLY.*
WOULD RATHER HAVE YOU NOT MENTALLY SWITCH-BOARD OPERATING WHILE THE REST OF US ARE TRYING TO TALK TO EACH OTHER DIRECTLY, EMMA DEAR.
WHY...ARE YOU *HELPING* ME? OUT OF EVERYBODY IN TOWN, YOU SINGLED OUT *ME*...AND THERE ARE *FIVE* OF YOU. FIVE *HEROES* WHO COULD BE *HELPING PEOPLE* ALL OVER--
ONE, THE LABEL OF *"HERO"* STILL MAKES ME *FAIRLY UNEASY,* AND TWO, BECAUSE YOU *ASKED US TO--*
AHEM--WHAT EMMA'S TRYING TO SAY, ROBERTA, IS THAT YOU'RE KIND OF A...PRIORITY.
*AND BY THE WAY, EMMA, YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY IN DISGUISE GIVEN, Y'KNOW, EVERYTHING ELSE THAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW?**
IF THE ILLUMINATI CAN GET THIS DONE QUICKLY, I'M *NOT* WORRIED. BESIDES, YOU *NEED* ME AND WHAT *I CAN DO.*
FAIR ENOUGH. JUST CHECKING.
*SEE *FALL OF X!* --WIL MOSS THE BIG BOSS
THE CLOCK IS *TICKING* HERE, FOLKS. I NEED THE *BLUE MARVEL* TO KNOCK OUT THE *WEAPONS SYSTEMS* ON THANOS' SHIP AND *DISABLE IT ENOUGH* SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE OF GETTING THE CITY OF FRESNO *BACK TO EARTH.*
WELL, I HAVEN'T HAD MY *SECOND COFFEE* YET, BUT ROGER THAT.
AND WE NEED TO GET THANOS *OUT* OF HIS *SPACE THRONE.*
HE'S BASICALLY *UNTOUCHABLE* IN THAT CHAIR AND CAN BE NEARLY *ANY PLACE OR TIME* IN IT.
TONY? STRANGE? YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THAT?
I CAN WORK ON HINDERING THE CHAIR'S *MYSTICAL ABILITIES,* YES.
SURE, BUT I STILL THINK WE SHOULD CALL HIM.
SKKKKEEEOOOWWFF

OKAY...I THOUGHT WE WERE TRYING TO SAVE FRESNO, NOT FURTHER DESTROY IT.
THINK ABOUT IT THOUGH. IT'S PROBABLY THE RIGHT MOVE, REED.
LET'S CALL HIM.
CALL WHO?
THE BIG STICK.
LISTEN, I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH CALLING HIM, BUT ONCE WE DO, IT'S, UH...A LITTLE HARD TO "HANG UP THE PHONE."
SAY WE GET THANOS OUT OF THE CHAIR. HE'S STILL THANOS. KNOW WHAT I MEAN? AND HE COULD HELP IN A BIG WAY KEEPING OUR FAVORITE MAD TITAN, Y'KNOW... DISTRACTED.
GO AHEAD, THEN. CALL HIM.
NO, HOLD ON, I DON'T WANT TO CALL HIM. ONE OF YOU SHOULD.
I FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE THE BEST RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.
NO, I DON'T. I ACTUALLY THINK THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE.
IF I CALL HIM, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE HE DOESN'T EVEN SHOW UP.
WE'RE SAYING WE DEFINITELY WANT HIM TO SHOW UP, RIGHT? WE'RE SURE ABOUT THAT?
I MEAN... IT'S THANOS, SO...YEAH. IT COULD HELP.
STEPHEN, I THINK YOU SHOULD DO A TELEPATHY MIND THING. THAT WAY, YOU CAN CATCH HIM UP QUICKLY AND WE'RE NOT TRYING TO EXPLAIN THE NUTS AND BOLTS--
RIGHT, BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE WE CAN REALLY GET INTO TROUBLE WITH HIM.
OKAY, FINE. FINE, I'LL DO IT.
BUT DO WE NEED A BACKUP PLAN? JUST IN CASE IT GOES SOUTH WITH HIM--
I REALLY DON'T THINK THERE'S TIME.
YES, JUST CALL HIM.

I'LL ALSO SEE IF I CAN TIE ONE OF THANOS' HANDS BEHIND HIS BACK WHEN IT COMES TO HIS ENERGY POWERS TOO--AT LEAST IN THE VICINITY OF FRESNO.
EMMA, I NEED YOU TO PROTECT ROBERTA UP HERE. THAT'S PARAMOUNT.
GOOD, THAT MIGHT GIVE US A BETTER SHOT WITH HIM, AND OUR BIG STICK MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING THE HURT A LITTLE MORE.
I NEED TO WORK ON GETTING ALL THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE OUT OF FRESNO.
STAY WITH ME AT THE BASE OF THE BUILDING. AND, EMMA, IF THANOS GETS CLOSE, TRY TO PUSH BACK AGAINST HIM "UPSTAIRS" AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.
THANOS HAS THE MIND OF A CLEVER BUG. ONE THAT I SHOULD EASILY BE ABLE TO CRUSH WITH MY HEEL.
HOO, BOY.
HAAEEKKTHOOOOOWWM

HHNNNGGGNNH!
OKAY, SOME GOOD NEWS... CAUGHT A FULL BLAST OF THE SHIP'S STARBURSTER CANNON...BUT LUCKILY IT SEEMS TO BE... SUPERCHARGING ME... INSTEAD OF RIPPING APART MY ATOMS...
ADAM, IT'S TONY. CAN YOU REDIRECT THAT ENERGY SOMEHOW?
I'M ABOUT TO FIND OUT...


COLORADO.
THOR

THOOOM
THAT WOULD BE AN AFFIRMATIVE, IRON MAN.
SHIP'S WEAPONS SYSTEMS ARE NOW COMPLETELY OFFLINE. BUT THE BEAMS HOLDING FRESNO IN PLACE AND CONTAINED ARE STILL FUNCTIONAL.
HEADING INTO THE SHIP'S INTERIOR NOW. LET'S SEE IF I CAN GET FRESNO BACK TO WHERE FRESNO USED TO BE.

I'VE ALREADY LOCATED THE SHIP'S TRACTOR BEAM CONTROLS.
NICE AND EASY, ADAM. IT'S NOT A MATTER OF JUST TURNING IT OFF. YOU'LL NEED ACCESS TO GUIDANCE CONTROLS AS WELL.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, REED, YOU DON'T WANT ME TO DROP FRESNO LIKE A ROCK ONTO LAS VEGAS?

INTRUDER!
YOU DO NOT BELONG ABOARD THE SANCTUARY!
THE HERALDED ONE WILL BE MOST PLEASED AT YOUR DEATH--

GLEEOWF
OKAY. FRESNO SHOULD BE COMING HOME, EVERYBODY...

"...BE ADVISED."

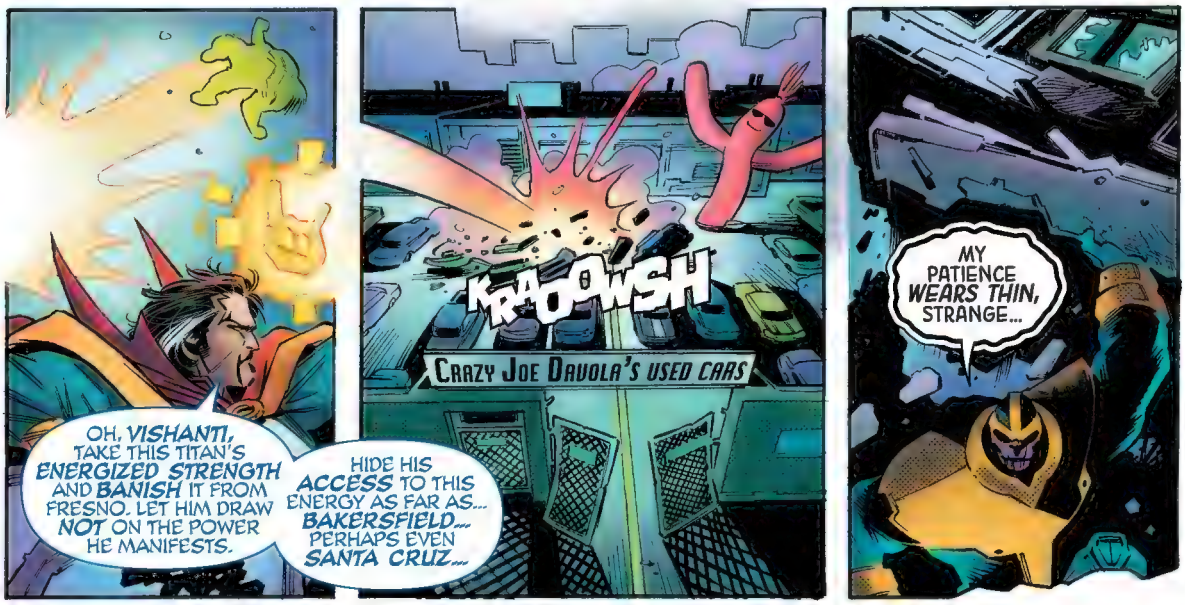
DID YOU CALL HIM?
I DID, IN A SENSE. HE WASN'T HAPPY TO HEAR FROM ME. WE MAY BE ON OUR OWN.
NOW, KEEP IN MIND, TONY, THIS THRONE'S MORE MYSTICAL COMPONENTRY CAN BE QUITE A CHALLENGE. AND I'VE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO REALLY GET A LOOK UP CLOSE.
LET ME SEE IF I CAN GIVE YOU THAT CHANCE.
UTAH.
FRAM
YOU?! I DO NOT BELIEVE AN IRON MAN NOR A SORCERER SUPREME POSE ANY THREAT TO MY DEVOTION. I RIPPED MYSELF FROM THE LIP OF AN EVENT HORIZON--ALL TO FIND THE ONE WHO MUST BE MINE! I'LL NOT BE DISSUADED IN MY QUEST!
LOOK, FRESNO WAS NEVER GOING TO WIN ANY "MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY IN AMERICA" AWARDS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE GOING TO JUST LET YOU DESTROY IT.
THE THRONE'S MAGICKS ARE SO ANCIENT AND OTHERWORLDLY, I'M HAVING TROUBLE IDENTIFYING WHICH PRECISE INCANTATIONS MIGHT HAVE AN EFFECT--
HEY, STRANGE, DO ME A FAVOR AND TAKE A SHOT IN THE DARK--
PITIFUL DISTRACTION!

EVERYBODY, THE CITY'S COMING BACK DOWN, BRACE FOR IMPACT!
SORRY, COULD'VE FINESSED THAT ONE A LITTLE BETTER...
UH, STRANGE? THE THRONE MIGHT NOT BE THE MAIN ISSUE ANYMORE...
AH MAN, MY CAR! THIS IS A CLASSIC, MAN! WHO PUT A MAGIC CHAIR THROUGH IT, MAN?
I TOLD YOU ONCE BEFORE, TONY STARK--STAND IN MY WAY, AND YOU AND YOURS WILL SUFFER UNTOLD TORTUROUS AGONIES FOR ALL ETERNITY...
RIGHT, THAT OL' SONG AGAIN...

DON'T WORRY, TONY, THIS THRONE WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE FOR SOME TIME--
VVVFFF

YOU CAN SWAT AWAY PUNY IRON AND SMASH A MAGIC MAN...
...BUT CAN YOU STOP A HULK?

I HAVE NO TIME FOR THIS, BANNER. I WILL NOT LET YOU STAND IN MY WAY.
BANNER? BANNER ISN'T HERE. BUT I AM HERE.
AND I AM ON TOP OF YOU NOW.


OH, VISHANTI, TAKE THIS TITAN'S ENERGIZED STRENGTH AND BANISH IT FROM FRESNO. LET HIM DRAW NOT ON THE POWER HE MANIFESTS.
HIDE HIS ACCESS TO THIS ENERGY AS FAR AS... BAKERSFIELD... PERHAPS EVEN SANTA CRUZ...
KRAOOWSH
CRAZY JOE DAVOLA'S USED CARS
MY PATIENCE WEARS THIN, STRANGE...

NO--
HKKKK--
ONE CANNOT SPEAK SPELLS IF ONE CANNOT BREATHE...
LET HIM GO.
STARK. STRANGE. AND NOW YOU. I AM CERTAIN THEREFORE THAT RICHARDS AND OTHERS OF HIS ILK LIE NEARBY, YES? INDEED THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR... "ILLUMINATI." HIDING HER HERE FOR SOME PURPOSE. SO TELL ME, BE YOU BANNER OR MERE BEAST...
...WHERE IS SHE?

I THINK I CAN MODIFY THE RELAY SIGNALS OF THIS SATELLITE TOWER. THAT SHIP SHOULD HAVE QUITE A SOPHISTICATED TELEPORTATION SYSTEM. BRASHEAR, DO YOU COPY?
YUP. I'VE ALREADY REACHED THE TRANSPORTER ARRAY CONTROLS.
GOOD. I WANT YOU TO PROGRAM SAFE COORDINATES, THEN WE'LL BOUNCE THE ARRAY OFF THE TOWER AND GET EVERYONE IN TOWN SOMEWHERE FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM THANOS.
WHAT ARE... WHAT ARE THEY EVEN DOING?
I WOULDN'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD ABOUT IT. I DON'T.
SOME...MONSTER IS HERE, THERE'S A SPACESHIP ABOVE THE PLANET, AND MISTER FANTASTIC IS DOING SOMETHING CRAZY TO THAT CABLE ANTENNA...
FINE, ROBERTA, IF YOU MUST KNOW, MISTER FANTASTIC IS COORDINATING WITH BLUE MARVEL TO REDIRECT THE TELEPORTATION ABILITIES OF THAT SHIP TO THE SURFACE SO THAT INNOCENTS CAN BE SAFELY BEAMED AWAY FROM THE CONFLICT ZONE.
IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER OF TRANSMUTATIONAL PHYSICS WITH A SPICY LITTLE DASH OF QUANTUM ENERGY TRANSFER.
WHOA! THAT'S EVEN POSSIBLE?!
EH, FOR THESE BOYS, IT'S MORE COMME CI, COMME ÇA.
AGH! DAMN YOUR PARLOR TRICKS--
FWAAACK
BA--I MEAN... HULK. I'M...GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT...
I DON'T CARE MUCH ABOUT YOU, OR THE OTHERS, OR FRESNO.
BUT I DO HATE THE TITAN VERY MUCH.
GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME...

BRASHEAR, NOW!
COPY. INTERLOCKING SIGNALS. GO.
SHRNK
IT'S TARGETING ORGANIC SIGNATURES. HUMANS FIRST, BUT I BET WE'LL EVEN GET THE HOUSE PETS OUT OF HERE TOO.
ZEWW
ZEWW

HOLY %@#$, ARE YOU, LIKE, VAPORIZING THEM?
I TOLD YOU WE'RE TRANSPORTING THEM, RELAX.
REED, WHERE ARE YOU SENDING THEM?
SACRAMENTO. JUST OVER 150 MILES, NOT TOO HARD OF A DRIVE BACK ONCE THINGS CALM DOWN, PLUS THEY'VE GOT GREAT GRILLED ARTICHOKES THERE--
UNDERSTOOD, THANK YOU.
YOU CANNOT HIDE HER FROM ME!
WHATEVER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...I DON'T CARE. I JUST...WOULD LIKE...TO KILL YOU.
NEED I POINT OUT TO EVERYONE THAT WE STILL HAVE A BIG OL' THANOS PROBLEM?
TRANSPORTER BEAMS...YOU'RE TRYING TO SPIRIT HER AWAY FROM ME...
FFFWOOOCK
WAIT--

KRRNNCSH
STRANGE'S CURSED SPELL HINDERED ME... BUT I NEED TO MOVE...NOW!
GGCKKZZZZ
SPRKA
RRRRRMMMM
KING OF THE ROAD

MARIE!
MARIE!
ZEWW
ZEWW
MARIE! MARIE!!!
MARIE!
MARIE!
OH MY GOD...
ROBERTA, NO, YOU MUST STAY PUT...

ROBERTA!
HEY! I TOLD YOU TO GET OUT OF HERE!
MARIE, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT...
THAT'S-- NOT MY NAME!
ROBERTA! RUN!
I SEE HER! SHE'S HERE!
COME ON, YOU DUMB LUMMOX, LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO AGAINST A DIAMOND ROADBLOCK.

GENTLEMEN, I'M AFRAID THANOS HAS SPOTTED ROBERTA...
EMMA, IT'S STEPHEN. YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM HER AT ALL COSTS!
KRSSSH
I'VE RETURNED.
I'VE RETURNED FOR YOU.
I'M, UH... I'M GOOD, THANKS...
YOU KNOW, THANOS, FOR SOMEONE WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE SUCH A POWERFUL INTELLECT, YOU SO OFTEN SEEM TO THINK WITH OTHER, LESSER PARTS OF YOUR BODY...
BOYS. I HAVE HIM. HE'S MINE.
GOOD WORK, EMMA. CONTINUE TO PIN HIM DOWN. KEEP HIM DISORIENTED.
NO, STEPHEN... HE'S WEAK. THIS IS OUR CHANCE. I COULD KILL HIM RIGHT HERE...
SHATTER HIS MIND INTO OBLIVION ONCE AND FOR ALL...
EMMA, DON'T. HE'LL OUT-MANEUVER YOU--
I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM A WIZARD--
THWACK
BE GONE FROM MY THOUGHTS, FROST. I'VE FAR MORE IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?!
STOP! STOP IT! LET HER GO!
YOU WILL GET IN THE VEHICLE NOW.
MMMMMF!
SMAT
WHY...WHY IS ANY OF THIS HAPPENING...?
ARE YOU... GONNA KILL ME?
DO NOT FRET. THE ANSWER IS QUITE SIMPLE.
I ONLY NEED YOU TO REMEMBER WHO YOU TRULY ARE.
EMMA, DO YOU HAVE HIM? IS ROBERTA WITH YOU?
NO AND NO, UNFORTUNATELY...
MY NAME... MY NAME IS ROBERTA MARSHALL--
NO. YOU ARE MY GREATEST LOVE. MY REASON FOR BEING.
YOU ARE MISTRESS DEATH.
TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT: SECRETS REVEALED!

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